

could not fail to be impressed with this tendency to an exuberant and enthusiastic magnifying of the "play impulse" as not only an element of child-life to be recognized, utilized and carefully directed, but as the supreme element in child-nature. More than one person announced to the public as a recognized authority in this department, both in the matter and manner of address, certainly left the impression on the untaught majority of the audience of the boy who replied to the question: "What is a Republican Government?" "It is a government where everybody does just what he wants to." The prevailing tendency seems to be that the one salvation for the young American is that "he shall let himself go" at his own sweet (or otherwise) will, and that the parent or teacher who objects, like certain criminals permitted to choose the method of their own execution, retains only the freedom to decide which of a dozen of disagreeable epithets and nicknames he will consent to wear in future, like the well-remembered "April Fool," pinned on the back of the respectable citizen by some enterprising youngster on "All-Fool's Day." It would seem that the experience of four thousand years of "bringing up children" would be enough to verify the truth of the old adage: "All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy." The most dangerous temptation to the mother or teacher, still in the dispensation of childishness, fancying that childish and child-like are synonymous terms, is to indulge herself in the amiable selfishness of keeping her child a plaything. Unfortunately, creature does not always bring manhood or womanhood in its train; and the amiable, accomplished, magnetic grown-up child on the educator's platform practically becomes the ally of all the foolish mothers, weak teachers and self-indulgent grandfathers. The result is

seen in the average apology for the kindergarten; a mob of impudent, boisterous and disobedient children, making themselves merry and mischievous at the expense of a young child graduate, harried, worried and trampled under foot by the rebellious crowd she vainly attempts to steer. The proverbial vulgar, and even disgusting, table habits of the multitudes of children, even grown youth, encountered in a tour among the watering places frequented even by the "smart set," is coming to be one of the portentous phenomena of our new American life. The abominable behavior of thousands of our school boys, and even school-girls, during the long vacations in our cities is becoming a new puzzle for an already distracted and demoralized police. In other words, the amiable ideal recently announced by one of the "greatest great" representatives of the "newest new" education: that, until the age of eight, the American child should not be put to anything save "incidental" work at school; in other words, should practically roam about, like the champion travelling musician, covered all over and loaded down with different musical instruments on which he plays at will; is simply a bid for a condition of affairs, a generation hence, in which it will not be necessary to cross even the brook in front of the home to find the opportunity for a new war; for "a man's foes shall be of his own household," and the most deadly enemy to republican institutions will be a people reared in the heresy that the "play impulse" is the soul of education.

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Any respectable old time colored "mammy" can "give points" to this silly and destructive heresy. And every mother, who is not in a condition of prolonged and invincible juvenility, knows, long before her baby is cut of her arms, that for childhood no less